



Media Advisory

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Sonoma County's First Plug-In Hybrid to be Unveiled at Climate Protection Conference on June 4

State-of-the-art plug-in technology added to Agency vehicle fleet

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) on June 4, 2007 at the Climate Protection: Everybody Profits III Conference at Windsor High School will unveil the newest member of its vehicle fleet, a state-of-the-art plug-in hybrid, nicknamed "Sparky." The plug-in hybrid is the first to be added to a government agency vehicle fleet in Northern California.

"The plug-in hybrid reduces greenhouse gas emissions, can drive one-hundred miles per gallon and is just one part of our Sustainability Initiative," said Cordel Stillman, capital projects manager. "It is our goal to utilize available new technologies to reduce our carbon footprint, such as plug-in technology."

Plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV's) combine an internal combustion engine with an electric motor and rechargeable battery. Both systems operate in parallel, forming an economical and low emission vehicle. Hybrid power makes it possible to drive vehicles on gas and electric power simultaneously, or on electric power only, ensuring zero-emission operations. A hybrid-drive vehicle can provide zero-emission and exceptionally quiet operation when traveling in towns and other emissions-sensitive areas. The plug-in hybrid system also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and is especially efficient driving in congested, stop-and-go urban traffic. Emission reductions from PHEV are immediate and scale with fleet size. A rechargeable battery provides the electric power for the hybrid drive train. It can be charged through a standard 110- or 220-volt outlet.

Plug in hybrids are based on existing hybrid vehicle platforms such as Toyota Prius, Toyota Highlander and Ford Escape. An additional high capacity battery pack enables these vehicles to be charged from grid power and operate up to 30-60 km range without using the internal combustion engine of the vehicle. This enables the vehicle to operate as a Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV), in turn significantly helping to reduce urban pollution levels.

Who: Sonoma County local governments, industry, and businesses
What: Plug-in Hybrid Unveiled, Third Annual Climate Protection Conference
Date: Monday, June 4, 2007
Time: 8a.m. to 1:30p.m.
Location: Windsor High School - 8695 Windsor Road, Windsor, CA 95492
RSVP: Contact Brad Sherwood at 707-521-6204

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Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.